Appln No. 09/973,303
Amdt date September 17, 2003
Reply to Office action of June 17, 2003

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Currently Amended) A system for controlling product items with shelf-life limitations comprising:

means for determining shelf-life limitation information for each of one or more product items;

means for recording said shelf-life limitation information for each of said one or more product items;

means accessible to a point-of-sale terminal for reading said recorded shelf-life limitation information for each of said one or more product items;

means [accessible to the point of sale terminal] for electronically recording said shelf-life limitation information for each of said one or more product items in an [electronically readable and storable form] electronic receipt; and

[means accessible to the point of sale terminal for communicating said electronically recorded shelf life limitation information for each of said one or more product items to a home terminal, the home terminal being accessible to a purchaser of said one or more product items for managing use of said one or more product items based on the shelf-life limitation information] means for retrieving the shelf-life limitation information from the electronic receipt.

2.   (Cancelled)

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3.   (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising:
means for storing said communicated electronic shelf-life limitation information for each of said one or more product items in a memory accessible by said microprocessor.

4.   (Original) The system of claim 3, further comprising:
means for formatting for an on-screen display said stored electronic shelf-life limitation information for each of said one or more product items.

5.   (Original) The system of claim 4, further comprising:
means for displaying as an on-screen display said formatted electronic shelf-life limitation information for each of said one or more product items.

6.   (Original) The system of claim 5, further comprising:
means for the purchaser to interact with said onscreen display of said formatted electronic shelf-life limitation information for each of said one or more product items to identify new product items.

7.   (Original) The system of claim 6, further comprising:
means for said purchaser to interact with said on-screen display of said formatted electronic shelf-life limitation information for each of said one or more product items to identify deleted product items.

8.   (Original) The system of claim 7, further comprising:
means for said purchaser to interact with said on-screen display of said formatted electronic shelf-life limitation

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information for each of said one or more product items to identify opened product items.

9.   (Original) The system of claim 5 where the means for reading said recorded shelf-life limitation information for each of said one or more product items further comprises;

means for converting said read shelf-life limitation information for each of said one or more product items to an electronically readable and storable form.

10-33.   (Cancelled)

34. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the shelf-life limitation information includes a period for which the product remains viable.

35. (Currently Amended) A system for controlling product items with shelf-life limitations comprising:

a data store storing shelf-life limitation information for a product item;

a scanner scanning a product indicia associated with the product item;

a first terminal coupled to the scanner, the first terminal configured to receive the scanned product indicia and search the data store for the associated shelf-life limitation information, the first terminal further configured to [provide] electronically record the shelf-life limitation information [to a purchaser of the product item] in an [electronically readable format] electronic receipt; and

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[a ~~second terminal accessible to the purchaser of the~~ ~~product item, the second terminal configured to retrieve the~~ ~~shelf-life limitation information of the product item provided~~ ~~by the first terminal for managing use of the product item~~]
means for retrieving the shelf life limitation information from the electronic receipt.

36. (Previously Presented)   The system of claim 35, wherein the first terminal is configured to store the shelf-life limitation information in an IC card accessible to the purchaser of the product item.

37. (Previously Presented)   The system of claim 35, wherein the first terminal is configured to store the shelf-life limitation information in a store server accessible to the second processor over a data communications connection.

38. (Previously Presented)   The system of claim 35, wherein the shelf-life limitation information includes a period for which the product remains viable.

39. (New)   The system of claim 1, wherein the electronic receipt is stored in an IC card.

40. (New)   The system of claim 1, wherein the electronic receipt is stored in a central server.